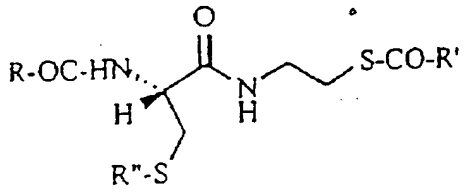
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~process for the preparation of a~~ compound of general formula:



(I)

in which:

- R and R′ independently represent a linear or branched C_1-C_7 alkyl radical or an aryl group which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more radicals chosen from halogens, linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl radicals and -OH radicals;
- R″ is hydrogen or a CO-R^1 group in which R^1 is a linear or branched C_1-C_7 alkyl radical or an aryl group which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more radicals chosen from halogens, linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl radicals and -OH radicals;

and the dimers formed by a disulfide bridge from one and/or other of the two sulfur atoms of the compounds of general formula I composed of the R″ radicals or of the R′CO- radicals of the two molecules, and the corresponding thiazolidine forms.

2. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that R is a methyl group ($-CH_3$).

3. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that R′ is a methyl group ($-CH_3$).

4. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that R″ is hydrogen (Compound N-(N-acetyl-L-cysteinyl)-S-acetylcysteamine).

5. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that R″ is an acetyl group ($-COCH_3$) (Compound N-(N,S-bisacetyl-L-cysteinyl)-S-acetylcysteamine).

6. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that R″ is an isobutyryl group ($-COCH(CH_3)_2$) (Compound N-(N-acetyl-S-isobutyryl-L-cysteinyl)-S-acetylcysteamine).

7. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that R″ is a pivaloyl group ($-COC(CH_3)_3$) (Compound N-(N-acetyl-S-pivaloyl-L-cysteinyl)-S-acetylcysteamine).

8. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that R′ is selected from the isopropyl group ($-CH(CH_3)_2$), the tert-butyl group ($-C(CH_3)_3$) and the phenyl group ($-C_6H_5$).

9. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that R″ is selected from hydrogen (-H), the acetyl group ($-COCH_3$), the isobutyryl group ($-COCH(CH_3)_2$), the pivaloyl group ($-COC(CH_3)_3$) or the benzoyl group ($-CO-C_6H_5$).

10. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that R is an isopropyl group ($-CH(CH_3)_2$).

11. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that R' is selected from the methyl group ($-CH_3$), the isopropyl group ($-CH(CH_3)_2$), the tert-butyl group ($-C(CH_3)_3$) and the phenyl group ($-C_6H_5$).

12. (Original) The compound as claimed as claim 11, characterized in that R" is selected from hydrogen (-H), the acetyl group ($-COCH_3$), the isobutyryl group ($-COCH(CH_3)_2$), the pivaloyl group ($-COC(CH_3)_3$) or the benzoyl group ($-CO-C_6H_5$).

13. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that R" is the trityl group.

14. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that R" is the trityl group.

15. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 1 to 14, characterized in that it is in the thiazolidine form.

16 - 33 (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, in particular a dermatological composition, characterized in that it comprises an effective amount of the compound as claimed in one of claims 1 to ~~15~~ 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

35 - 40 (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of AIDS, characterized in that it comprises a therapeutically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claims 1 to ~~15~~ 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

42. (Currently Amended) A product comprising at least one compound as claimed in one of claims 1 to ~~15~~ 14 and at least one reverse transcriptase inhibitor as combination product for a use in antiviral therapy which simultaneous, separate or spaced out over time.

43. (Previously Presented) The product as claimed in claim 42, characterized in that said reverse transcriptase inhibitor is selected from 3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine (AZT), 2',3'-dideoxyinozine (ddI), 2',3'-dideoxycytidine (ddC), (-)-2',3'-dideoxy-3'-thiacytidine (3TC), 2',3'-didehydro-2',3'-dideoxy-thymidine (d4T) and (-)-2'-deoxy-5-fluoro-3'-thiacytidine (FTC), (+)-5(S)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-8-chloro-5-methyl-6-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)imidazo-[4,5,1-jk]-[1,4]benzodiazepin-2(1H)-thione (TIBO), 1-[2-hydroxyethoxy)methyl]-6-(pheylthio)thymine (HEPT), [2',5'-bis-O-(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)-β~D-ribofuranosyl]-3'-spiro-5"-(4"-amino-1",2"-oxathiole-2",2"-dioxide)thymine (TSAO), 2-(2-acetyl-methylanilino)-2-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)acetamide (α-APA), bis-(heteroaryl)piperazine [also referred to as <<rescriptor>>:1-(5-methanesulphonamido-1H-indol-2-yl-carbonyl)-4-[3-(1-methylethyl-amino)pyrodinyl]piperazine monoethane sulphonate] (BHAP) or phosphonoformic acid (PFA).

44 - 54 (Canceled)